



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital wins a 2016 Practice Greenhealth Environmental Excellence Award

Honored for commitment to health care environmental stewardship.

YAKIMA, WA. – Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital has been awarded the Partner Recognition Award from Practice Greenhealth, the nation’s leading health care community dedicated to transforming health care worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes a community anchor for sustainability and a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice. The award is one of the Environmental Excellence Awards given each year to honor environmental achievements in the health care sector.

The Partner Recognition Award is given to health care facilities that have begun to work on environmental improvements, have achieved some progress, and have at least a 10 percent recycling rate for their total waste stream.

Memorial met the recycling rate by:

1. Recycling all of its HIPPA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) shredded paper: an average of 78 tons a year.
2. Florescent light bulbs: 1,133 pounds
3. Batteries: 3,200 pounds
4. Lead aprons: 157 pounds
5. Cooking oil: 29.83 tons
6. Toner cartridges: 2.6 tons
7. Cardboard: 63.85 tons

Other environmentally friendly improvements included a 17 percent reduction in greenhouse gases and a heat-recovery program for kitchen refrigeration and waste systems, projected to save over 2 million gallons of water and almost 920 million BTU’s annually.

Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital was also certified with honors as a Green Cleaning Hospital by the ISSA Cleaning Industry Management Standard.

“This award demonstrates our commitment to enhancing the health of our patients, staff and community,” said Russ Myers, CEO of Memorial Family of Services.

“We look forward to working with Practice Greenhealth to continue navigating the path to sustainability for the future of health care,” said Kate Gottlieb, Memorial’s Sustainability and Wellbeing Coordinator.

The Practice Greenhealth Environmental Excellence Awards were presented May 19 in Dallas at the CleanMed Conference & Exhibition, the premier national environmental conference for leaders in health care sustainability.

Practice Greenhealth is the nation’s leading health care community dedicated to transforming health care worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes a community anchor for sustainability and a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice. To learn more about Practice Greenhealth visit www.practicegreenhealth.org.

Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital, part of the Virginia Mason Health System, is a 226-bed, acute-care, nonprofit, community hospital serving Central Washington’s Yakima Valley. Memorial Family of Services includes primary care practices and specialty care services including high-quality cardiac care; cancer care through North Star Lodge; breast health at `Ohana Mammography Center; acute hospice and respite care at Cottage in the Meadow, winner of the Circle of Life Award from the American Hospital Association for innovative palliative and end-of-life care; pain management at Water’s Edge; an advanced NICU unit, the only place in Central Washington that offers specialty care for at-risk infants; advanced services for children with special health care needs at Children’s Village; and The Memorial Foundation, a separate 501c(3) organization that raises funds for innovative health care programs in the Yakima Valley (www.memfound.org).

Visit Memorial online at www.yakimamemorial.org or on Facebook (www.facebook.com/yakimavalleymemorialhospital), Twitter ([www.twitter.com/Yakima Memorial](https://www.twitter.com/Yakima_Memorial)) or Pinterest (www.pinterest.com/yvmh).

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